At the sound of the bell, please gather behind the processional cross at the baptismal font.

GATHERING SONG  The Lord is my light  Taizé community

When all have taken their places:

Officiant  All of us go down to the dust;

All  yet even at the grave we make our song:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
**READING**  
*Ecclesiastes 3:1–3a, 4*

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die;
a time to plant and time to pluck up that which is planted;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance.

**Reader**  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**Assembly**  
Thanks be to God.

**BURYING THE ALLELUIAS**

*The Alleluias are placed in the chest, and will remain hidden until Easter.*

**Officiant**  
Until the time when Christ’s resurrection is celebrated with joy and gladness, we commit our joyful alleluia to God who gave it. Let us pray together:

**All**  
Lord God, our creator,  

as we bury this sign of heaven’s song,  
help us to turn ourselves to living a holy Lent.

Help us give up things that stand between us and your love, and walk with Jesus on the road that leads us closer to you.

We give up our alleluia only for a while so that we may make more beautiful music in our heart and life when we sing it again at Easter. Amen.
The alleluias are introduced by the Cantor, then repeated by all.

The Cantor sings the verse:

Alleluia, song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die; alleluia is the anthem ever raised by choirs on high; in the house of God abiding thus they sing eternally:

All sing the alleluias once.

Alleluia though we cherish and would chant for evermore alleluia in our singing, let us for a while give o’er, as our Savior in his fasting pleasures of the world forbore.

As the doors are closing, all sing the alleluias, repeating them until indicated.

After the final alleluias, all observe a period of silence.

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

A Priest offers the closing prayer and blesses the Assembly.

All respond: Amen

DISMISSAL

Officiant   Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

   All   Thanks be to God

Everyone departs in silence. All are welcome to be present for the burning of the palms on the front steps of the cathedral following the liturgy.

We gather again in this space tomorrow (at 7 a.m., noon, or 7 p.m.) for the liturgy of Ash Wednesday.